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**Subject:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Weekly Digest Bulletin

## News Release: EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy to Testify at Hearing of House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

06/25/2014

**CONTACT:**

EPA Press Office

[press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 25, 2014

## EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy to Testify at Hearing of House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

**WASHINGTON** – On Wednesday, June 25, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy will testify before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

**WHO:**

U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

U.S. Senator David Vitter

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

**WHAT:** Hearing entitled "Management Failures: Oversight of the EPA"

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**WHEN:** 9:30 a.m. EDT, Wednesday, June 25, 2014

**WHERE:** Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2154, Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C.

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## **News Release: EPA Releases Final Risk Assessment on Trichloroethylene (TCE) / Agency begins process to address potential human health risks**

06/25/2014

### **CONTACT:**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 25

### **EPA Releases Final Risk Assessment on Trichloroethylene (TCE)**

*Agency begins process to address potential human health risks*

**WASHINGTON** – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a final risk assessment for trichloroethylene (TCE). The assessment identified health risks from TCE exposures to consumers using spray aerosol degreasers and spray fixatives. It also identifies health risks to workers when TCE is used as a degreaser in small commercial shops and as a stain removing agent in dry cleaning.

“EPA calls on Congress to enact legislation that strengthens our current federal toxics law,” said Jim Jones, assistant administrator for chemical safety and pollution prevention. “Until that time, we are using the best available science to assess and address chemical risks of TCE that now show that it may harm human health and the environment.”

The final TCE risk assessment was developed as part of the agency’s Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Work Plan, which identified chemicals for review and assessment of potential risks to people’s health and the environment. EPA developed the draft TCE risk assessment based on the best available information and finalized the assessment after careful consideration of comments from the public and experts during an independent, scientific peer review of the assessment. TCE is the first chemical to

complete the work plan risk assessment process under TSCA.

EPA is conducting a workshop from July 29-30, on potential TCE degreaser alternatives and risk reduction approaches. EPA will conduct other activities to address TCE uses as a stain removing agent in dry cleaning and as a clear protective spray fixative.

In the meantime, EPA recommends that people take precautions that can reduce exposures, such as using the product outside or in an extremely well-ventilated area and wearing protective equipment to reduce exposure.

Additional information on the TCE risk assessment, the July 29-30 public workshop, and TSCA workplan chemicals can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/existingchemicals/pubs/riskassess.html>

R157

## News Release: US EPA Administrator to Deliver Remarks at George Mason University's Washington Youth Summit on the Environment

06/25/2014

**CONTACT:**

[press@epa.gov](mailto:press@epa.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 25, 2014

## US EPA Administrator to Deliver Remarks at George Mason University's Washington Youth Summit on the Environment

**WASHINGTON** – On Thursday, June 26, 2014, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy will deliver remarks to 200 high school students participating in George Mason University's Washington Youth Summit on the Environment program. Administrator McCarthy's speech will focus on climate change with an emphasis on the Clean Power Plan proposal, a vital piece of President Obama's Climate Action Plan, which for the first time cuts carbon pollution from existing power plants, the single largest source of carbon pollution in the United States.

The Washington Youth Summit on the Environment is an interactive program that provides high achieving high school students with an interest in environment, conservation and sustainability with a hands-on experience to explore careers in environmental science, conservation, policy, law and engineering. Students take an active role in the curriculum with behind-the-scenes explorations of facilities and laboratories at the Smithsonian and National Zoo, field visits, and activities with researchers and scientists.

**WHO:** U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

**WHAT:** Remarks at George Mason University's Washington Youth Summit on the Environment

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 26, 2014

11:30 a.m. ET

**WHERE:** Johnson Center Cinema

4400 University Drive

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA 22030

Information on the Clean power Plan: <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards>

## EPA News Release (Region 7): Results of Surface Radiation Screening Suggest Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex Remains Suitable for Public Use

06/26/2014

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, KS 66219

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

**Results of Surface Radiation Screening Suggest Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex Remains Suitable for Public Use**

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Environmental News

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Lenexa, Kan., June 26, 2014) - Results of a scientific surface gamma radiation screening of the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex (BMAC) in Bridgeton, Mo., suggest the multi-purpose outdoor recreational facility remains suitable for public use, EPA Region 7 announced today.

"EPA's analysis of data collected from more than 58,000 surface points across BMAC suggests no levels of gamma radiation that would pose public health concerns for users of this facility," EPA Regional Administrator Karl Brooks said. "This was a thorough scientific survey, coupled with meticulous review and quality control checks of the data."

EPA announced on May 9, 2014, that it would conduct the BMAC screening in response to citizen concerns. The screening, which began on May 19, included a surface screening using a sodium iodide detector that traveled approximately 45 miles of transecting lines across BMAC, as well as the collection of more than 100 surface soil samples from locations throughout the complex.

To help determine if any detections of radiation at BMAC were consistent with those found naturally in the area's environment, EPA conducted gamma screening at nearby Koch and Blanchette parks. Analysis of the surface readings at BMAC found gamma radiation levels comparable to those at the other two parks.

EPA expects validated results from the BMAC soil sampling data by the end of July. Samples of surface soils were collected from infield areas, outfield areas, grassy areas outside of playing fields, and from drainage areas. EPA also worked with the community group that screened areas of the complex earlier this year to identify the areas where they collected soil samples, so that EPA could collect soil samples from those same locations. All of EPA's collected soil samples were sent to a certified laboratory for analysis.

The BMAC surface gamma radiation screening report will be available later today on EPA Region 7's website: [www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill](http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill).

EPA also will publicly share the final report of the BMAC soil sampling analysis at the same website, and through news and social media, when it becomes available.

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[Learn more](#) about EPA Region 7

View all [Region 7 news releases](#)

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## News Release: EPA Proposes Approval of New Climate-Friendly Refrigerants / Proposal supports president's Climate Action Plan by curbing emissions of potent greenhouse gases

06/27/2014

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 27, 2014

## **EPA Proposes Approval of New Climate-Friendly Refrigerants**

*Proposal supports president's Climate Action Plan by curbing emissions of potent greenhouse gases*

**WASHINGTON** – In support of President Obama's Climate Action Plan, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to increase the options for refrigerants in the United States that offer better climate protection without harming the ozone layer. This is the agency's first action that addresses refrigerants under the Climate Action Plan, which calls on EPA's Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) Program to identify and approve additional climate-friendly chemicals.

Under the authority of the Clean Air Act, EPA's SNAP Program evaluates substitute chemicals and technologies that are safe for the ozone layer. This proposed action would expand the list of SNAP-approved substitutes to include more low-global warming potential (GWP) alternatives that can replace both the ozone-depleting substances and high-GWP hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

"Last June, President Obama introduced a broad set of initial steps designed to slow the effects of climate change, including reducing potent greenhouse gases," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "This proposal is a great example of how businesses and EPA can foster innovation by working together to identify refrigerants that better protect our environment."

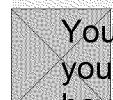
After receiving input from industry, environmental groups, and others, EPA is proposing to list additional low GWP hydrocarbon refrigerants in six refrigeration and air conditioning applications: stand-alone commercial and household refrigerators and freezers; very low temperature refrigeration; non-mechanical heat transfer; vending machines; and room air conditioning units. The proposal also adds one lower-GWP HFC (HFC-32) that has just one-third the GWP of the conventional refrigerants currently being used in room air conditioning units. These refrigerants are already in use in many of these applications in Europe and Asia.

In addition to adding these climate friendly alternatives, EPA is also revising the current venting prohibition to account for four of these substitutes, as current evidence suggests that their venting, release, or disposal does not pose a threat to the environment.

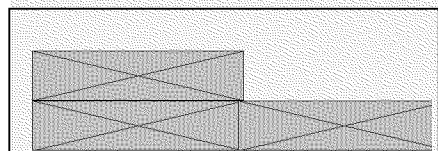
EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register.

Learn more about EPA's SNAP Program and the proposal:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ozone/strathome.html>

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